IT FEELS GOOD TO BE A BADASS

NICOLE KIDMAN GETS EVIL FOR "PADDINGTON." PAGES 14-15

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Wolf hits the road

New era. The new governor vows to help Pennsylvania's middle class, create more modern jobs and overhaul the education system. PAGE 02

Now Gov. Tom Wolf, pictured stopping by Warmdaddy's on Columbus Boulevard last election day, faces diverse challenges. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Wrestlers suing WWE over brain injuries

PAGE 04

Tom Colicchio's house rules for dining

PAGE 16

Union take a chance on journeyman striker

PAGE 24

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1 'Eagles offseason: What's up with Marcus Mariota?'

2 'VIDEO Jessie J can sing with her mouth closed and it is weird'

3 'Actress Heidi Mueller gets engaged to Cowboys running back DeMarco Murray'

On the go

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Wolf eyes schools, jobs and wages in address

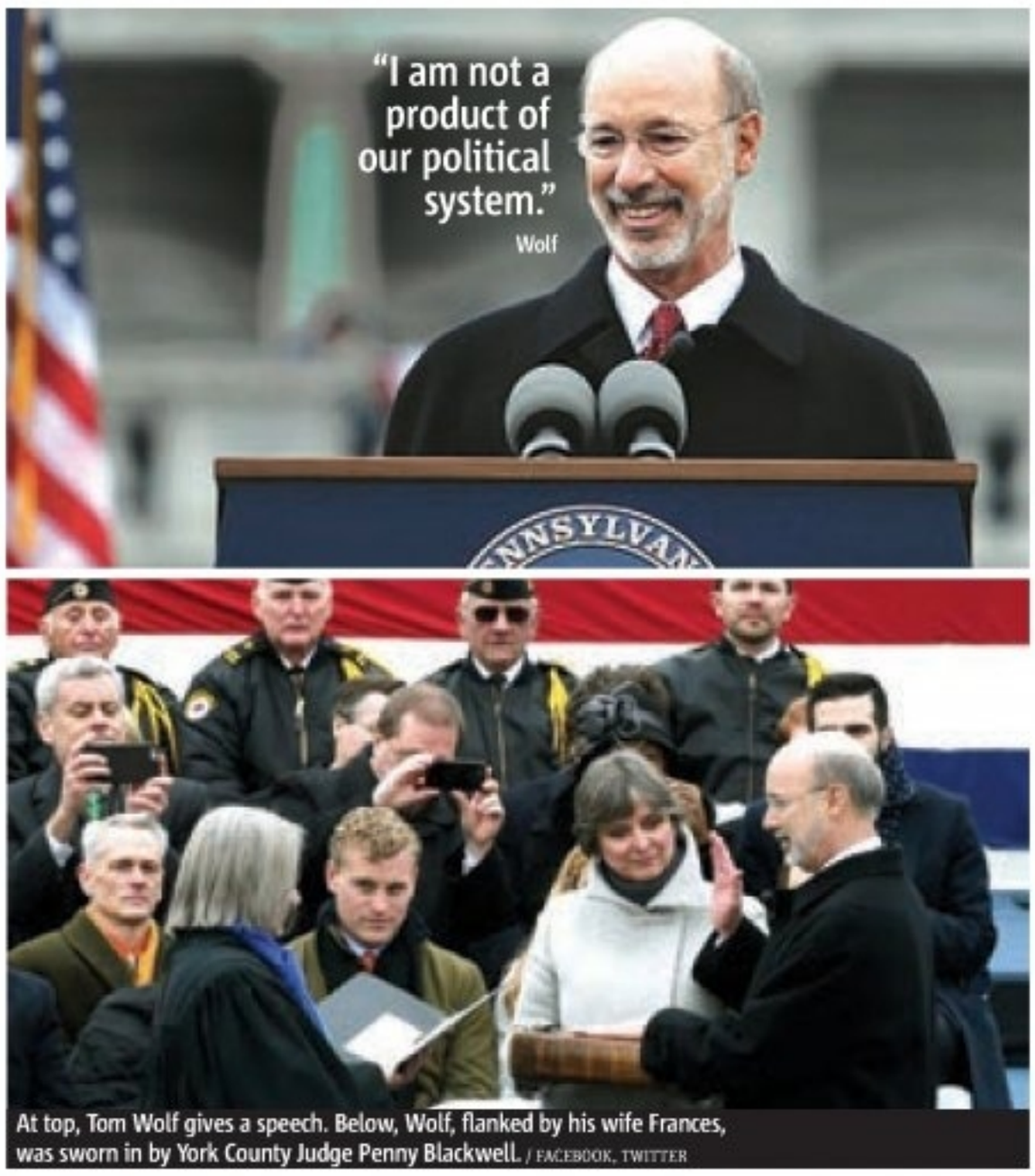
Sworn in. Gov. Tom Wolf calls education the state's "highest priority."

In his first address as governor of Pennsylvania, Tom Wolf said he wants to rebuild the middle class, create more modern jobs, and overhaul the state's education system.

"With a large deficit, stagnant wages and a shrinking middle class, there is no question that our challenges are great," Wolf said. "But let's remember: The last time that America went through a great transformation, it was Pennsylvania that led the nation through the Industrial Revolution."

Wolf, who was sworn in Tuesday as the 47th governor of the Keystone State, called himself an "unconventional governor," a reference to his background as a businessman and volunteer.

"I am not a product of our political system," Wolf told his audience at the Capitol complex in Harrisburg, but failed to mention his term as the state's revenue secretary under former Gov. Ed Rendell in 2007. He also graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with a doctorate in political science.



At top, Tom Wolf gives a speech. Below, Wolf, flanked by his wife Frances, was sworn in by York County Judge Penny Blackwell. / FACEBOOK, TWITTER

Hurdles ahead

- $2.3 budget deficit: Wolf said he will present his first spending plan in March.
- The Senate and House of Representatives are Republican controlled.
- He plans to work to fix Pennsylvania's education system.
- Majority of state worker labor contracts will expire in June and will have to be renegotiated.

Quoted

"With a large deficit, stagnant wages, and a shrinking middle class, there is no question that our challenges are great." Wolf

The 66-year-old Democrat from York said improving the state's education system is his "highest priority."

"Our state will never be as strong as it needs to be if some schools have all the resources they need and other schools are cutting band and football just to keep the lights on," Wolf said. "That is why nothing is more essential than working together to make sure that every child in Pennsylvania has access to a great education, and that all teachers have the resources they need to deliver a great education."

State government must partner with businesses to create more jobs, and help its citizens by making "smart, strategic investments in public goods-investments in education, health, transportation, and infrastructure that set the table for robust private sector growth."

In November, Wolf defeated Tom Corbett, the first incumbent Pennsylvania governor who failed to win reelection.

In his campaign, Wolf said he'd tax natural gas drilling to help pay for education. That's earned him criticism from environmental groups, many of which were on hand protesting during Wolf's address.

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Education. Former Philly principal moves to Harrisburg

Pedro Rivera has been tapped to be the state's new secretary of education. He is a former employee of the Philadelphia School District. ALAS

The city of Philadelphia gained a city schools advocate in Harrisburg.

Freshly sworn-in Gov. Tom Wolf announced late Monday that former Philadelphia School District employee Pedro Rivera will serve as his secretary of education. Rivera will oversee a department fighting rising pension costs.

Rivera worked for 13 years in the city's public school system, holding many positions, including human-resources director, teacher, assistant principal, and principal. He most recently served as superintendent of the School District of Lancaster. Rivera served the district, which is home to just under 12,000 students, from 2008 to 2014.

By the numbers

1.8M

Students in the state

Wolf, in a statement, said Rivera "is nationally recognized for his efforts to improve urban education, and he will work with me to build a strong public-education system and get Pennsylvania back on track."

Rivera, a native of Hunting Park, was recognized in September by President Barack Obama at the White House as a top-10 Hispanic leader in the country.

Jerry Jordan, president of the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, said in a statement that Rivera's experience makes him the perfect person for the position.

"Rivera understands better than most how teacher unions and administrators should work together to improve public education," Jordan said.

TOMMY ROWAN

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TV

Nutter to appear on 'Allegiance'

Mayor Michael Nutter is hitting the small screen.

Nutter will be featured in an upcoming episode of the NBC show "Allegiance," according to the Daily News.

The Russian spy show, which was filming a few episodes in the city, will feature the mayor will play himself in a speaking role in the season's third episode.

The show premieres on Feb. 5 at 10 p.m., the newspaper reported.

METRO

Nutter / FILE PHOTO

Local wrestlers suing WWE over concussion injuries

Beat up. Philly-area wrestlers are the first to sue the WWE for "unsafe" work conditions.

Former pro wrestlers Vito LoGrasso, 50, and Evan Singleton, 22, are suing World Wrestling Entertainment over concussions they claim they sustained while fighting for entertainment.

The would-be class-action suit, which only names two plaintiffs, could expand to more than 500 wrestlers. The lawsuit charges that the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) subjects wrestlers to risks "by script, on a daily basis."

LoGrasso, of Coatesville, was known as "Big Vito," and wore a dress in the ring while wrestling. Singleton, of Lancaster, was known as "Adam Mercer" and wrestled from 2012 to 2013.

Vito LoGrasso and Evan Singleton / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Quoted

"The use of dangerous weapons like steel chairs by wrestlers cannot be done safely."

Lograsso and Singleton's lawsuit

"WWE events include activities that cannot be performed safely," states the suit, which is seeking undisclosed damages in excess of $5 million for each wrestler.

The lawsuit, filed by Conshohocken attorney Harris Pogust, cites an autopsy of wrestler Chris Benoit, who died in 2007 at age 40. Doctors reportedly said his brain "resembled the brain of an 85-year-old Alzheimer's patient."

A similar lawsuit was filed in October 2014 against the WWE on behalf of former pro wrestler William Albert Haynes III, who wrestled as "Billy Jack Haynes."

"WWE was well ahead of sports organizations in implementing concussion management procedures and policies as a precautionary measure as the science and research on this issue emerged. We will vigorously contest this lawsuit," said WWE attorney Jerry McDevitt.

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The lawsuit

Dangerous games?

This lawsuit is based on studies of wrestlers' brains conducted by Dr. Bennet Omalu and Dr. Julian Bailes, whose research also led to a class-action lawsuit against the NFL over players' concussions.

Despite the WWE's "Wellness Policy," the lawsuit says wrestlers are put at risk, encouraged to perform folding chair attacks and flying headbutts without adequate protection or recovery time, thus leading to "chronic traumatic encephalopathy" (CTE), which is caused by multiple concussions.

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South Jersey

Burned baby still had umbilical cord

A baby killed by its mother had been born just minutes before the mother set it on fire, new police reports say.

Police found Hyphernkemberly Dorvilier, 22, with a can of WD-40 and a lighter, which she had used to ignite her baby girl just before 11 p.m. on Friday night in Pemberton Township, according to a police report.

The baby, which was wrapped in smoldering towel and papers, still had its umbilical cord and placenta attached, according to the report.

After a neighbor saw Dorvilier and heard the baby's cries, he pinned her down until police arrived, during which time she allegedly said, "It's not my baby."

Dorvilier's mother and sister, who shared a home with her, later told police they had no idea Dorvilier had given birth that night.

Dorvilier is charged with murder. Officials would not comment on her condition. METRO

Dorvillier / COURTESY

Ironworkers' former chief convicted of violence

Joseph Dougherty outside federal court
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, CHRIS FOX

Racketeering. The Construction union boss had non-union workers beaten with baseball bats.

Joseph Dougherty, 73, former business manager of Ironworkers Local 401, was convicted by a federal jury Tuesday for ordering criminal acts of violence against non-union workers and jobs that employed non-union labor.

Dougherty was convicted on charges including racketeering, malicious damage to property by means of fire, and use of fire to commit a felony, the Philadelphia U.S. Attorney's office said.

During his trial, prosecutors played phone conversations with Dougherty recorded by an FBI wiretap in which he directed other Ironworkers to attack or threaten contractors who employed non-union laborers.

"Did those guys hire our guy today?" Dougherty asked an underling about one project with non-union workers. "We're not losing in Center City."

Later, told the contractor has offered to hire two union workers, Dougherty responds, "Tell him to go f— himself."

The contractor was later intimidated into forfeiting the project to Local 401.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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Charges

Prosecutors said Dougherty led a campaign of extortion and violence around Philadelphia for years, including:

- Directing other ironworkers to attack non-union laborers at a King of Prussia site with baseball bats, sabotage a Quaker construction site in Chestnut Hill, and orchestrate the takeover of a small residential development in University City.

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UHCPA725733-000

The White House took some of the suspense away from the speech this year, sending Obama on the road during the past two weeks to roll out themes he plans to highlight. / GETTY IMAGES

Obama talks trade deals and tax hike in speech

Trips. Obama will travel to Idaho and Kansas this week to continue to promote his ideas.

President Barack Obama proposed to hike taxes on the wealthy in his State of the Union speech Tuesday night, an idea already panned by Republicans in Congress who want him to aggressively pursue trade deals with Asia and Europe.

Obama said he wants to reach out to Republicans who support trade deals his administration has pursued, over the objections of some of his fellow Democrats.

That idea is popular with Democrats, who are looking beyond Obama's tenure to 2016 elections. But it seems dead on arrival with Republicans who control both houses of Congress.

Obama's aim is to help those left behind by an economic revival taking hold six years into his tenure, which began with the Democrat facing a crippling financial crisis. He has said trade deals could help expand markets for American goods and services.

Obama also updated Americans on the threat of Islamic extremists, two weeks after 17 people were killed in attacks in France.

Obama defended his decision to seek to normalize diplomatic relations with Cuba. Alan Gross, the U.S. aid worker whose release from a Cuban prison helped pave the way toward restoring diplomatic ties with Cuba, was among Michelle Obama's guests at the speech. REUTERS

Quoted

"Will we accept an economy where only a few of us do spectacularly well? Or will we commit ourselves to an economy that generates rising incomes and chances for everyone who makes the effort?"

Obama

Tax increase

$320B

Obama also proposed boosting middle class benefits through tax increases on the wealthy and financial firms adding up to $320 billion over 10 years.

Orrin Hatch

Republican accuses Obama of 'class warfare'

The Senate's top tax law writer accused President Barack Obama on Tuesday of undertaking "class warfare" with his plan to raise taxes on wealthier Americans to help the middle class.

Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said the proposals Obama is expected to set out in his State of the Union address on Tuesday evening would violate principles of simplicity and "revenue neutrality" that Hatch said are key to any real tax reform.

Senior Senate Republican Orrin Hatch / GETTY IMAGES

"This plan appears to be more about redistribution, with added complexity, and class warfare, directed at job-creating small businesses, than about tax reform," Hatch said in remarks prepared for delivery in a speech to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

He said this was "unfortunate, because we're going to need real leadership from the White House — not just liberal talking points — if tax reform is going to be successful." REUTERS

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Yemen. Clashes hit capital as Houthis pursue political gains

Fighters from the Houthi group battled guards at the Yemeni president's private home and entered the presidential palace on Tuesday, witnesses said, as a second day of violence in Sanaa raised fears the country was descending into chaos.

In a speech on live television, Houthi leader Abdel-Malek al-Houthi suggested two days of fighting involving his men were part of an attempt to protect a power-sharing deal meant to steer Yemen to stability.

His speech was critical of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, a U.S. ally with whom Houthi has been at odds over a draft constitution intended to help end decades of conflict and underdevelopment.

He said no one, including Hadi, was above any steps when it came to implementing the power-sharing accord, which was negotiated after his men seized Yemen's capital, Sanaa, in September. Houthi prizes the accord as it grants his group participation in all military and civil state bodies.

Members of the Shiite Huthi
GETTY IMAGES

"We ... will not hesitate to impose any necessary measures to implement the peace and partnership agreement," said Houthi, whose Shiite Muslim group is widely seen as an ally of Iran in its regional struggle for influence with Saudi Arabia. REUTERS

ISIS threatens two Japanese captives

Video. The footage named the men as Haruna Yukawa and Kenji Goto.

The militant group Islamic State (ISIS) released an online video on Tuesday purporting to show two Japanese captives and threatening to kill them unless it received $200 million in ransom.

A black-clad figure with a knife, standing in a barren landscape along with two kneeling men wearing orange clothing, said the Japanese public had 72 hours to pressure their government to stop its "foolish" support for the U.S.-led coalition waging a military campaign against ISIS.

He demanded "200 million" without specifying a currency, but an Arabic subtitle identified it as U.S. dollars.

An undated video still from ISIS / YOUTUBE

Quoted

"To the prime minister of Japan: Although you are more than 8,500 kilometers away from the Islamic State, you willingly have volunteered to take part in this crusade."

The militant in the video

The video was not dated, but on a visit to Cairo on Jan. 17, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged around $200 million in non-military assistance for countries battling ISIS.

Abe, speaking in Jerusalem on Tuesday near the end of a six-day tour of the Middle East, said ISIS' threat against the two purported captives was "unacceptable."

"Extremism and Islam are completely different things," Abe said. "We strongly demand the immediate release of the Japanese citizens unharmed. ... The international community needs to respond firmly and cooperate without caving into terrorism." REUTERS

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Murder trial. Jury selection starts in Colorado cinema massacre

A judge in Colorado began the process Tuesday of choosing the jury for the murder trial of James Holmes, the former neuroscience graduate student who killed 12 people in July 2012 at a midnight screening of a Batman movie.

Holmes, 27, has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity to 166 charges of murder, attempted murder and explosives offenses. He was arrested wearing a gas mask, helmet and body armor at the scene of the shooting rampage in the Denver suburb of Aurora. Seventy people were also hurt.

His lawyers have said that Holmes was suffering a "psychotic episode" at the time. If convicted, he could face the death penalty.

Jury selection may take up to four months as Arapahoe County District Court Judge Carlos Samour seeks to narrow a field of some 9,000 possible jurors to a panel of 12 and 12 alternates.

James Holmes / GETTY IMAGES

The large number of people summoned reflects the difficulty expected in finding an impartial jury for such a high-profile, emotive case. Each person will be questioned about their views on topics such as insanity defenses and the death penalty.

Samour told prospective jurors not to discuss the case with anyone, including on social media, nor to carry out any independent research.

Holmes was in court dressed in a gray suit jacket, open-neck blue shirt and khaki pants, the first time in court that he did not wear his red prison garb. Bearded and wearing glasses, he chatted and smiled with his lawyers, while tethered to the floor below the desk.

The trial has been delayed several times, mostly by wrangles over Holmes' state of mind when he opened fire with a handgun, shotgun and semi-automatic rifle inside the crowded premier of "The Dark Knight Rises" film at Aurora's Century 16 multiplex.

REUTERS

Quoted

"The jury must decide this case based only on the evidence presented in the courtroom and the law I will provide."

Judge Samour

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Shares soar. Netflix adds 4.3 million streaming subscribers

Netflix added 4.3 million net subscribers to its TV and movie streaming service worldwide in the fourth quarter, helped by expansion into new markets, sending its shares soaring in after-market trading.

The online movie streaming giant's shares rose as much as 14.4 percent to $398.90, after it also reported a better-than-expected adjusted quarterly profit.

The company added 2.43 million net subscribers in international markets and 1.9 million in the United States and said it expects to add about 4 million net subscribers in the current quarter.

Netflix said it would offer the "controversial comedy" movie "The Interview" to U.S. and Canadian subscribers beginning Jan. 24.

Netflix also said its first original feature film, "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon II: The Green Destiny," would debut on Aug. 26 worldwide. The company expects to open the film on select IMAX screens the same day as it releases online.

Netflix said it intends to debut a second season of the sweeping adventure drama "Marco Polo" in 2016. / GETTY IMAGES

Downloads

5.8M

The Sony Pictures-produced comedy about a fictional plot to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is believed to have triggered a cyber-attack on the studio and racked up over $40 million in sales from 5.8 million digital downloads.

Netflix, which plans to launch streaming services in Australia and New Zealand in March, is focusing on producing original series to fend off competition from Time Warner Inc's HBO, Amazon.com Inc. and Hulu, as well as on-demand offerings from pay TV providers.

Netflix has won widespread acclaim for its TV series "House of Cards" and "Orange is the New Black," including a Golden Globe award for actor Kevin Spacey earlier this month. REUTERS

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Daily video

Jessie J has some freakish mutant powers

How well does pop star Jessie J know her hit "Bang Bang"? So well that she can sing it with her mouth closed. "I discovered when I was little that I could pretend I was in a box," she revealed to Graham Norton, and demonstrated a form of ventriloquism that does make her sound confined and muffled. "As I got older, I discovered that I could sing [the same way]." And then she does it, and it's startlingly clear and really disturbing.

BBC / YOUTUBE

1 Johnny Depp finds movie stars trying to be rock stars 'sickening'

Attention actors who try to launch music careers: Stop it. You're making Johnny Depp sick. "That whole idea for me is a sickening thing, it's always just made me sick," Depp said while promoting "Mortdecai" in Berlin.

"I hate the idea, 'Come see me play guitar because you've seen me in 12 movies.' It shouldn't be. You want the people who are listening to the music to only be interested in the music." Firm but fair.

So, according to Depp's Draconian take on music, which of his fellow movie stars are in violation? Jared Leto certainly jumps to mind, as does Scarlett Johansson — hey, remember her album of Tom Waits covers? Yeah, no. Oh, and Russell Crowe has a band. And doesn't Gwyneth Paltrow like to sing, too? Man, they're all going to have some explaining to do when they see Depp at the next Millionaire Movie Stars Rotary Club meeting. But at least some good comes from all of this, as Depp insists, "You won't be hearing The Johnny Depp Band. That won't ever exist."

HUH? REMEMBER THIS GUY, JOHNNY?

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

2 The 1975's Matt Healy still not dating Taylor Swift

"ONCE AGAIN YOU GUYS, TAYLOR SWIFT AND I ARE. NOT. DATING."

Matt Healy, ostensibly the singer of the band The 1975, is becoming much better known as the guy who insists he's not dating Taylor Swift, despite photos of the pair together and his regular comments during interviews about meeting her. But God, guys, why do you keep bringing it up? It's "all bloody fake. It's a farce," Healy insists during a recent radio interview. "We met each other, we exchanged numbers in the same way that a lot of people in this world kind of do, and we spoke occasionally. She's the biggest pop star in the world and I'm in Australia. It's just funny how people really, really buy into that." That's all fine and good, but why do you have to bag on Australia like that?

3 Ansel Elgort and his high school sweetheart are back on

Apparently when "The Fault in Our Stars" star Ansel Elgort tweeted that he likes girls — a lot — he really meant just one girl in particular. Elgort has reportedly reconnected with his high school sweetheart, Violetta Komyshan, four months after they initially called it quits, according to Us Weekly. "They just missed each other. He didn't really see anyone else seriously while they were split," a source says.

2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Rita Wilson is feeling a bit alone out there, Kelly Osbourne doesn't appreciate yelling and Conan O'Brien is going to like the way he looks.

@RitaWilson: Can someone respond to this so I can see if Twitter is working?

@KellyOsbourne: When U state your opinion w/ vicious anger your passions become pointless as it falls upon deaf ears! Learn 2 speak & I will care 2 hear you

@ConanOBrien: Nothing makes me feel sexier than overpaying for a blazer.

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ROCKY IS BACK IN TOWN

BOLDFACE

A.D. AMOROSI

A.D. Amorosi is a journalist covering arts, entertainment and food news and gossip. He can be reached at divaland@aol.com.

In the ring

If you're a Philadelphia boxing fan, you're having a pretty good January. First, **Sylvester Stallone** arrived in town early to reprise his role as **Rocky Balboa** in **"Creed,"** which is scheduled to start shooting Jan. 26, according to **Philadelphia Film Office** boss **Sharon Pinkenson**. So far, Stallone was spied shopping at **I. Goldberg** and dining at **D'Angelo's** and **Estia**. Co-stars **Michael B. Jordan** and **Phylicia Rashad** report for work this week.

There's news that Philly boxer **Bernard Hopkins** will retire after his next fight (still unscheduled). Hopkins turned 50 over the weekend, and held a party Tuesday at **2300 Arena** in South Philly.

Local scribe **Gabe Oppenheim** is touting **"Boxing in Philadelphia: Tales of Struggle and Survival"** as a must for any sports lover.

Celebrity Boxing's **Damon Feldman** will hold his next bout Jan. 31 at **Marple Sports Arena,** with NFL champ **Lee Woodall** fighting **Mark Wahlberg**'s pal **Henry "Nacho" Laun** of **"Wahlburgers"** fame.

Jersey boys Bruce Springsteen and Southside Johnny played at the 15th annual Light of Day concert to fight Parkinson's disease at the Paramount Theatre in Asbury Park. STAR SHOOTER

Restaurant rumors

Bing Bing Dim Sum, the upcoming spot from the owners of **Cheu Noodle Bar**, should be ready in time for **East Passyunk Restaurant Week**, taking place Feb. 22-28.

Hawthorne's, the brunch spot and beer shop at 11th and Fitzwater, quietly reopened after a fire kept it closed for almost a year. The restaurant is also starting beer delivery.

As seen on TV

Rick Forman, founder/CEO of **Forman Mills**, appears on CBS' **"Undercover Boss"** on Jan. 25, working anonymously alongside employees at several of his area stores. Disguised in a mustache, mullet and glasses ("I look liked **Geraldo Rivera**," says Forman), the CEO's take-home was that his company has great people that need more training to truly excel in work and life, he says diplomatically.

Celebrity sightings

- "Breaking Bad" actress **Krysten Ritter** and her boyfriend, musician **Adam Granduciel** of **The War on Drugs**, were at the Ethical Society on Rittenhouse Square for the annual Silver Ages show, featuring Drugs drummer **Charlie Hall**.
- VH1's "Mob Wives" pals **Natalie Guercio** and **Alicia DiMichele** reunited at the 21st annual **Hair O' The Dog** gala at the **Crystal Tea Room**, where Gurecio debuted her new song, "Throttle," onstage.
- Stand-up comedian **Colin Quinn** hit the **Midtown III** diner between shows at Helium Comedy Club.

The Weekly Yelp. Raise a tortilla chip to these nachos

Ah, the beloved nacho: Often judged for its messy delivery and sometimes unkissable ingredients is celebrated on this page. Today, we hail this Mexican melting pot that brings together our favorite toppings, smothered in cheese, guacamole and sour cream.

We love you, nachos, and we don't care who knows.

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2401 E. Norris St., Fishtown

The nachos are grande and come highly recommended by me, as they are loaded, well-layered, and not skimpy in the least, even if you order the o.g. non-meatsy ones... but try those Nachos de Kenzo. **KATHLEEN D.**

Quetzally

1225 Fitzwater St., Bella Vista

Quetzally found a solution to a problem that I didn't fully realize I had. You know when you get nachos and there are so many toppings that you run out of chips to eat it all? Get this: Quetzally gives you *a basket of chips on the side*. **JORDAN B.**

Taqueria Feliz

4410 Main St., Manayunk

Another great new addition to Main St. This place may have the greatest nachos I've ever had in my life, the beer rotation is done by someone who clearly knows what they're doing, and the fish tacos are great. **ROBERT M.**

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Yelper Felicia C. is a fan of the nachos and fish tacos at Taqueria Feliz. /YELP

MICHAEL MANN'S 'ALI' ONLY GETS BETTER WITH AGE

'Ali'

Netflix Instant

Clint Eastwood had a great weekend, with "American Sniper" grossing Marvel money. Meanwhile, another stubborn, aging director, Michael Mann, did not have a great weekend. His $80 million cyber thriller "Blackhat," barely cracked the top 10. Mann has often had trouble with audiences. For every "The Last of the Mohicans," "Heat," or "Collateral," there's an underperformer like "Ali," his underrated anti-biopic about the pugilist (played by Will Smith).

At face value, it's a comeback movie, charting the 10 years that included Muhammad Ali's banishment from boxing to the "Rumble in the Jungle." But it delights in denying audiences the usual biopic pleasures. It's an odd bird in other ways. This is a film from 2001 whose first order of business is to show its hero triumphantly converting to Islam. The film's best segment is its opening: a dizzying, time-jumping, 10-minute montage backed by live Sam Cooke that contextualizes Ali in the Black Power movement. And the whole film is building not just to a victory but to a return to Africa. The movie gets better the more you revisit it.

Will Smith takes on the role of the legendary boxer in Michael Mann's "Ali." / PROVIDED

STREAM THIS

Matt Prigge's guide to what you can watch on the Internet.

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Netflix Instant

'Pee-wee's Big Adventure'

No one's seeing "Big Eyes," which is sad: It's the most interesting film Tim Burton has made in ages. It's also the cheapest film he's ever made — $3 million cheaper, after adjusting for inflation, than his best work: "Pee-wee's Big Adventure." A loopy vehicle for Paul Reubens, it has him searching for his stolen bike — just like in "The Bicycle Thief."

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Nicole Kidman loves being bad

Interview. The "Paddington" star is more comfortable as the villain — and is pretty handy with a knife.

Nicole Kidman says Stanley Kubrick once told her, "You're a character actress, Nicole. Don't play leading ladies. Go and find the character roles." And if her work in "Paddington" is any indication, he was on to something. Kidman revels in the role of the villainous Millicent, a high-end taxidermist on a mission to kill, stuff and mount the titular talking bear.

"I was lucky because they had a pretty strong vision for [the character] when I came in," she says with a laugh. And as for how much research she put into her role? "I'd say 'Taxi Driver' and this film, that's the research."

As a mother with two young girls at home, it would be understandable if Kidman had any reservations about getting so nasty and evil on screen. But far from it. "It was good because they were on the set," she says of daughters Sunday and Faith. "Initially, they were like, 'Oh no, please don't be the one that wants to hurt the bear.' But now they understand the behind-the-scenes, and strangely enough, my 6-year-old really loves the villain character, which kind of worries me."

Any worry, though, was put to rest by the finished product. "It was really great because I got to watch the film with my mom, who is 74, and my 4-year-old and my 6-year-old. All of them were laughing at the same things — that's amazing. I just love that I can make a film that my family can enjoy," she says. And "Paddington" puts to rest an old filmmaking adage, as far as Kidman is concerned. "They always say if you have a great time making a movie, the movie's not going to be any good. But this movie is good, and we had a really good time. That refutes that, right?"

And her biggest takeaway from the film? One particularly deadly new skill — that didn't quite make it into the movie. "I did learn how to throw knives, which they subsequently cut out of the film," Kidman admits. "I just remember [producer] David [Heyman] going, 'It's a children's movie!' I throw one knife now. But I'm saving my knife-throwing technique for another film. Or for real life! For Keith," her husband.

DIRECTOR STANLEY KUBRICK ONCE TOLD NICOLE KIDMAN TO FIND CHARACTER ROLES. GETTY IMAGES

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Nicole Kidman slips into a villain role — and a blonde bob — as an evil taxidermist out to stuff the talking bear hero of "Paddington." / LAURIE SPARHAM

Poor Mark Darcy

Wasn't Colin Firth supposed to be in this?

Ben Whishaw — the new Q from the James Bond films — voices Paddington, but he wasn't the filmmakers first choice. "We started working with Colin Firth," director Paul King admits. "From Day One he said, 'I'm not sure my voice is going to turn out to be right.'"

How right Firth was. "We worked with him a lot and rehearsed with him a bit, and he's terrific, but as the animation emerged, you just didn't believe his voice coming out of this cub," King admits. "We tried doing some digital things to kind of make him feel a little lighter, but it sounded so Smurf-y, so quickly. It just didn't feel right." No hard feelings, though, right? "I'm so glad he wasn't a young actor getting his big break, or I would have felt terrible."

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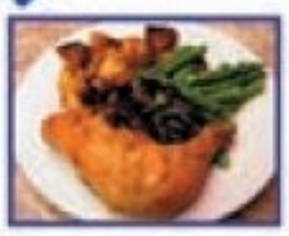

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Tom Colicchio's guide to dining

TOM COLICCHIO
NBC VIA GETTY IMAGES

"Best New Restaurant." We asked the "Top Chef" judge about the foodie landscape and what role the diner has in creating a great experience.

Tom Colicchio knows there's more to a restaurant than its executive chef. The "Top Chef" head judge and owner of seven restaurants from NYC to Los Angeles is getting out of the kitchen to show what makes a truly great spot in Bravo's new reality series, "Best New Restaurant," premiering Wednesday at 10 p.m.

"This show is very different from 'Top Chef,' and I think just the nature of the show is a little more playful and fun at times," he says.

The show will go inside 16 restaurants around the country competing for the eponymous title. "It's not just about food, it's about the entire restaurant experience: food, service and hospitality," Colicchio says.

We asked him about whether the foodie landscape is changing — Austin, Texas, is better represented on the show than New York City — and what you should definitely not do (and what he doesn't mind) when dining out.

What's going on in Austin?

You have a lot of creative young people, the spaces are still reasonable, and if you can open a restaurant in Nashville, Austin or Charleston, why come and spend $150 a foot in NYC when you can do something for $30 a foot? There are still young people who want to do their own thing. They're finding creative ways to do it — that's why you have pop-up restaurants, that's why you have food trucks.

Have customers become more demanding?

In larger cities, obviously you have more people who don't cook. They're working all day, they come home, the last thing they want to do is start cooking. What's happened because of food TV is the population is expecting more.

What do you think about ordering off the menu?

If someone says to me, "I really want the striped bass but I want the garnish that's on the halibut"? Fine. I don't care. I'm not going to say what a chef should do. I can just speak for myself. If you ask at my restaurant, I would hope the answer is "Yes."

MATTHEW LEE
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letters@metro.us

Tom Colicchio is pulling back the curtain on how a great dining experience is created. / DALE BERMAN, BRAVO

Diner etiquette

Worst thing a customer can do?

I think my biggest pet peeve really is [when a customer comes in] not expecting a good time. Whatever it is, leave your lousy day behind, whatever happened in the office, leave it behind and come in and let the restaurant do its thing. The best experience you can have is when you engage with your server and enjoy yourself.

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TV watch list

DRAMA

'American Horror Story: Freak Show'

The latest season of Ryan Murphy's horror series ends as the various freaks rebel. Who will survive this season? And will Dandy's show go well? **SEASON FINALE, 10 P.M., FX**

Tune in for the conclusion of Elsa's adventures in freak show management. / SAM LOTHRIDGE, FX

DRAMA

'Empire'

The Lyons go on a visit to Philadelphia, and gets a reminder of what their lives were like before the success of the family record company. Check back next week for our interview with star Taraji P. Henson!

9 P.M., FOX

COMEDY

'Broad City'

One of Abbi's dreams comes true, as she's finally given the opportunity to train someone else at Soulstice. Given her history at her job, we're guessing that might not end well.

10:30 P.M., COMEDY CENTRAL

TALK SHOW

'The Daily Show'

It's Anne Hathaway day on "The Daily Show." She's got a new music-oriented movie coming out, because Anne loves to sing.

11 P.M., COMEDY CENTRAL

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The Beekman Boys bring the farm to us

Country living. If the lifestyle experts have one piece of advice, it's this: Slow down.

Josh Kilmer-Purcell, left, and Brent Ridge / ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

Brent Ridge and Josh Kilmer-Purcell might be cookbook and memoir authors, reality TV stars on the Cooking Channel's "The Fabulous Beekman Boys," and winners of "The Amazing Race" — but they're in no rush. The couple traded in big city bustle for quiet country life (not entirely by choice) and they're loving the change of pace.

"We were two Manhattanites with great careers in the city. Then in 2008, we both lost our jobs in the recession. And we had to figure out a way to reinvent ourselves," says Ridge, a physician who was VP of Healthy Living for Martha Stewart Omnimedia (Stewart blogged their 2013 wedding).

Kilmer-Purcell was an ad exec and author of two memoirs: "I Am Not Myself These Days," about his drag days, and "The Bucolic Plague," about the couple's weekend adventures fixing up the Beekman Mansion, a 200-year-old estate in Sharon Springs, New York.

When they found themselves out of work and the part-time country digs became a full-time residence, and Ridge and Kilmer-Purcell's fast-paced lifestyle came to a halt.

Suddenly, they were learning how to live by the seasons. They started growing their own food, and a neighboring farmer brought his herd of dairy goats to their property — so they started a line of goat milk products. "Farm to table" took on a new, very literal meaning.

From there, they created the brand Beekman 1802, named for the year the house was built.

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PLUS

Start small

Plant a seed

Ridge suggests bringing that philosophy into your home by "starting with one seed."

"Consider planting just one thing in your house. One tomato plant or one pepper plant" he says. "Then you can watch that process – you want to wait for something before you have it. Or if you love basil, plant it and deny yourself any basil until it's ready. You learn to appreciate it so much more."

Instant gratification

Take-home philosophy

The biggest — and most rewarding — challenge in living seasonally was learning how to wait.

"Living in the city, it was always about instant gratification: Having what you wanted the second you wanted it," Ridge explains. "When we moved to the country and started growing our own food, starting having to drive 30 minutes to get to the nearest large store, we had to deal with delayed gratification — which makes us appreciate things so much more. It changed our whole philosophy on life."

See them live

Philadelphia Home Show

The Beekman Boys share tips on living seasonally this Friday and Saturday at the Philadelphia Home Show, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center (12th and Arch streets).

Jeff Devlin from DIY's "I Hate My Bath" and HGTV's "Spice Up My Kitchen" will also be appearing this weekend, along with other design, remodeling and organizing experts and over 300 exhibitors.

Tickets for the Home Show are $13 at the door, or $10 in advance at www.phillyhomeshow.com.

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Stay on top of your fashion resolutions

Trends. Banana Republic's stylish creative director likes dresses, denim and khaki for 2015.

You've already decided to ditch junk food, ban the booze and go to the gym three times a week — but what about your personal style? To help keep you looking your best well after the excitement of the new year has fizzled, we've got some tips from Marissa Webb, creative director at Banana Republic.

Use dresses as your go-to

Rotate your usual denim uniform with dresses. "They're more versatile than you think," says Webb. "Throw-on a pair of skinny jeans underneath, and wear it as a tunic by day and bare leg by night." For spring, Webb says to be on the look out for "modern takes on eyelet and lace in black, white, coral and violet."

Steal from the boys

This year, invest in staple masculine items, like a perfectly tailored suit with the one white shirt that will last you forever. Webb loves rocking a boy-meets-girl look: "It can be as literal as contrasting a boyfriend blazer with a sexy pair of super skinny jeans and heels," she says. "Or it could be finding pieces designed for women, but taking obvious design cues from men's tailoring."

Banana Republic creative director, Marissa Webb helps you stay on top of trends in 2015. / PROVIDED

Indulge in denim

"Banish the winter blues with strong denim pieces," says Webb. And have fun with your favorite staple. "Stock up on rich indigos, pale chambrays in different proportions and [a variety of] textures."

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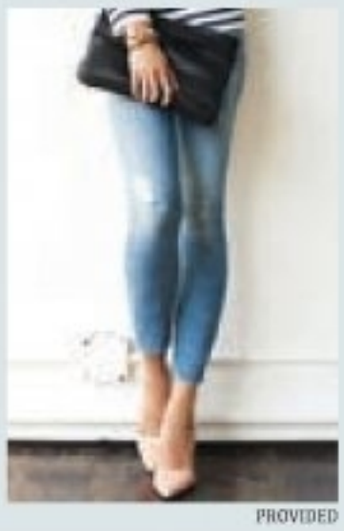

PROVIDED

Khaki is the new black

"Forget everything you thought you knew about khaki. It really is the key color for the spring," insists Webb. Don't believe her? Just look at some of the biggest spring fashion shows including Jason Wu, Ralph Lauren and Gucci. Webb's suggestions for the best pieces to incorporate the color into your wardrobe: "a go-to trench, a short sweater and soft, supple leather."

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

STORAGE KING USA

On Friday January 23, 2015 at 3:00 PM, Storage King USA - Kensington at 3100 C Street Philadelphia PA 19134 (215-634-4115) will hold a public auction. Items will be sold to the highest bidder for cash.

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Top indie games to play in 2015

They may not have the same level of graphics as the titles from big gaming companies, but independent games pack plenty of play, likability and arguably more creativity. And thanks to easy-to-use development software and platforms, indies have never been more accessible. Here are our bets for the leading independent games of the new year. **WANISE MARTINEZ, MWN**

'Hyper Light Drifter'

In 2013, developers Heart Machine Games turned to Kickstarter for funding to the tune of $27,000. In the end, "Hyper Light Drifter" got $654,000, and soon players can enjoy this immersive RPG, whose gameplay happens in a dystopian, mystical future. Packed with slick animation and stylish pixel art, the game reminds us of "The Legend of Zelda" series, but with even more kinds of weapons, abilities, enemies and cool visual effects. **PS4, Xbox One, PS Vita, Wii U, PC, Linux, Mac and Ouya**

'Firewatch'

The story of "Firewatch" is set in the forests of Wyoming, a place where the player's only form of human interaction is a handheld radio. The game is filled with an atmosphere of dread and mystery, hinting that something really strange could happen at any moment. For those who are focusing on just the name, it's good to know that the worst thing you'll face won't be the impending danger of nature's flames. **PC, Mac and Linux**

'The Witness'

Created by Jonathan Blow, known for the prize-winning "Braid," "The Witness" took five years of development and stands among the most anticipated indie games of the year. This 3D, first-person adventure combines sophisticated puzzles with the ability to explore an isolated island. The gamer has to solve riddles in the middle of stunning landscapes, but they're not so simple and each one has its own rules. An open-world game, "The Witness" has already created a lot of buzz thanks to its enigmatic style. **PS4, PC and iOS**

'Gunsport'

Just think of beach volleyball, but instead of regular moves to keep the ball in the air you use laser rifles and handguns. In "Gunsport," gamers play in pairs to try and throw the ball at the goal or at the opponent's court. A rally between teams generates more points, so you can't drop the ball during the exchange of passes. With very simple rules, this cyberpunk-esque game seems an excellent choice for those who want to have some retro-sporting fun. **PS4, Xbox One and PC**

'Wreckfest'

This racing title previously called "Next Car Game" has been described as a fine successor to classics like "Street Rod," "FlatOut" and "Destruction Derby." It earned that distinction not only because of the superior graphics, but because of the soft-body damage modeling: When the player crashes hard or gets pushed into a wall, he or she not only sees the effects of the impact on the vehicle, but also feels it while driving in a very realistic way. **PC**

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Breeze into any workout

Joined a gym? With these trainer tips, you won't feel like the new kid in class.

It's a good time to make a fitness resolution, with an explosion of boutique studios offering more ways to work out than ever. And, you may think, just as many ways to embarrass yourself with unfamiliar equipment, complicated routines and the a lack of gymnast flexibility.

Many people miss out on great fitness classes because they feel intimidated, and celebrity trainer Simone De La Rue doesn't want that to happen. In addition to clients like Anne Hathaway and Naomi Watts, the Australian also has Body By Simone studios in L.A. and Manhattan — and knows that everyone who walks in is a newbie in some way.

But exercising together is worth the initial hurdles: It's motivating, keeps you accountable and creates a community. "Group fitness has been around for years, and it works because you're feeding off the energy of other people," she says.

We asked De La Rue how to start off on the right foot.

1 Get a sneak preview. Feeling intimidated is common, but you don't have to walk into a class totally unprepared. "A lot of time people come and have a private session first to build up their confidence before they feel comfortable going into the class," says De La Rue. Ask if the studio can offer you some one-on-one time with an instructor to preview the basic techniques and offer advice in private.

2 You're all there to sweat. "A lot of people even struggle looking at themselves in the mirror," says De La Rue. The thing to remember is that you're the only one looking at you — everyone else is just as busy worrying about themselves. So face yourself, acknowledge where you are and focus on learning the skills to build your confidence.

Exercise should be fun! / ISTOCK

No. 3

Go to the right class

There's always more than one way to work the body parts you're concerned about: If you're looking for cardio but are not coordinated, skip the dancing and go for the full-body class. "Pick something that's in your comfort zone to build up your strength and confidence."

No. 4

Discover your passion

The best class for you is the one you'll go back to. De La Rue's passion is cardio dance, which links her to her ballet training and avoids monotony. "Dance is using your whole body and using your brain as well to work in coordination," she says. "It's creative, it's expressive, it's a joyous way of exercising." Those words should describe how you feel doing whatever exercise you choose. The hardest part is showing up, but if you're excited to get to it, the rest is much easier.

EVA KIS
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Health notes. Being lazy is twice as likely to kill you as obesity

You don't need a six-pack to live longer. A study of more than 330,000 people in Europe found that committing to a brisk 20-minute daily walk cut the risk of early death by up to 30 percent.

Overall, lack of physical activity was found to be responsible for twice as many deaths as obesity.

By studying the bodies and reported exercise of participants in a 12-year study, University of Cambridge researchers found that the greatest disparity in premature deaths occurred between the inactive and moderately inactive groups, with an estimated daily 20-minute walk reducing the early death rate between 16 and 30 percent. Normal-weight subjects saw the most benefit.

How many times has this happened to you after going out drinking the night before? / ISTOCK

Alcohol doesn't help you sleep

Though alcohol initially acts as a sedative, a study of college-age students found that drinking before going to bed also increases alpha wave activity in the frontal lobe, which is thought to be a sign of disturbed sleep.

The brain waves of students, men and women between ages 18 and 21 who were not binge drinkers, were measured during sleep both after drinking and sober. The study found that drinking brought on patterns similar to chronic pain sufferers, whose daytime functioning is known to be impaired because of a lack of quality sleep. EK

Quoted

"The take-home message here is that alcohol is not actually a particularly good sleep aid, even though it may seem like it helps you get to sleep quicker." Christian L. Nicholas, University of Melbourne, study co-author

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Horoscope

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. Get the lowdown on any investment you want to pursue before you make a commitment. Protect what you already have.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Money woes are evident if you don't reduce your spending and stick to a strict budget. Consider reviving an idea.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Don't let things get you down. Set a goal that will help you to experience something new. Until you challenge your capabilities, you won't know your limits.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Make a blueprint for your professional future. Direct your energies with precision and stick to your agenda.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Your hard work is paying off, and your life goals are within reach. You will advance to the next level and make new goals.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. Positive changes lie ahead, but legal or investment contracts need to be dealt with first. Consider the consequences involved if you sign an agreement without careful inspection.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. You will feel relief once you have dealt with pending issues. Take care of responsibilities to more truly enjoy simpler pleasures.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Procrastination will be your downfall. Problems can be cleared up once you figure out what's really bothering you. Take action.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. This is your time to shine. Take control and plan a gathering or fun event. Love is looking hot, and put greater emphasis on personal achievements.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Opposition will come from an unlikely source. Don't trust someone claiming to have your best interests in mind.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. An entertaining approach will help you sell whatever you are trying to offer. Showing off a little will help you beat out any competition you face.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. An interesting adventure is imminent. Someone you thought gone will resurface. Fresh schemes will bring positive results. EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

	1				2			
	9		5	3	6			2
	5			1		6	4	
1	7	3						5
				4				
8						9	2	3
	3	7		6			5	
2			3	9	7		1	
			2				9	

7	4	8			3			
3		5	9		4			
	9							6
6				5				1
	2	4				6	9	
1				4				3
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Letters to the editor

Can't have civil rights and ignore them too

How is it not insincere for many to celebrate MLK Jr. Day, when he was a consistent lawbreaker who refused to listen to police orders? If he were alive today, the police and DAs and press would be calling him an "agitator," beating him up, and jailing him. New York's Pat Lynch and his ilk don't hail the marchers TODAY for fighting for civil rights. They are fully against civil rights and they denounce these civil disobedients. Lynch even says he hates the Bill Of Rights and that no one should ever question police. The NYPost acts like they now love MLK Jr., when nothing could be further from the truth. These people are still oppressing black people to this very day. And I think the police force is worse than the KKK, specifically because it DOES have black people in it. The black cops are even more racist than the white police, because they're trying to show off that they don't care about race and care more about police. Us vs them. I think you can't have it both ways. Is it wrong or right to defy police when the laws they enforce are wrong? The press hail MLK now, for his breaking the law, but they just spent the past five months telling us to always obey the police.
UCHENA SHOREY, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

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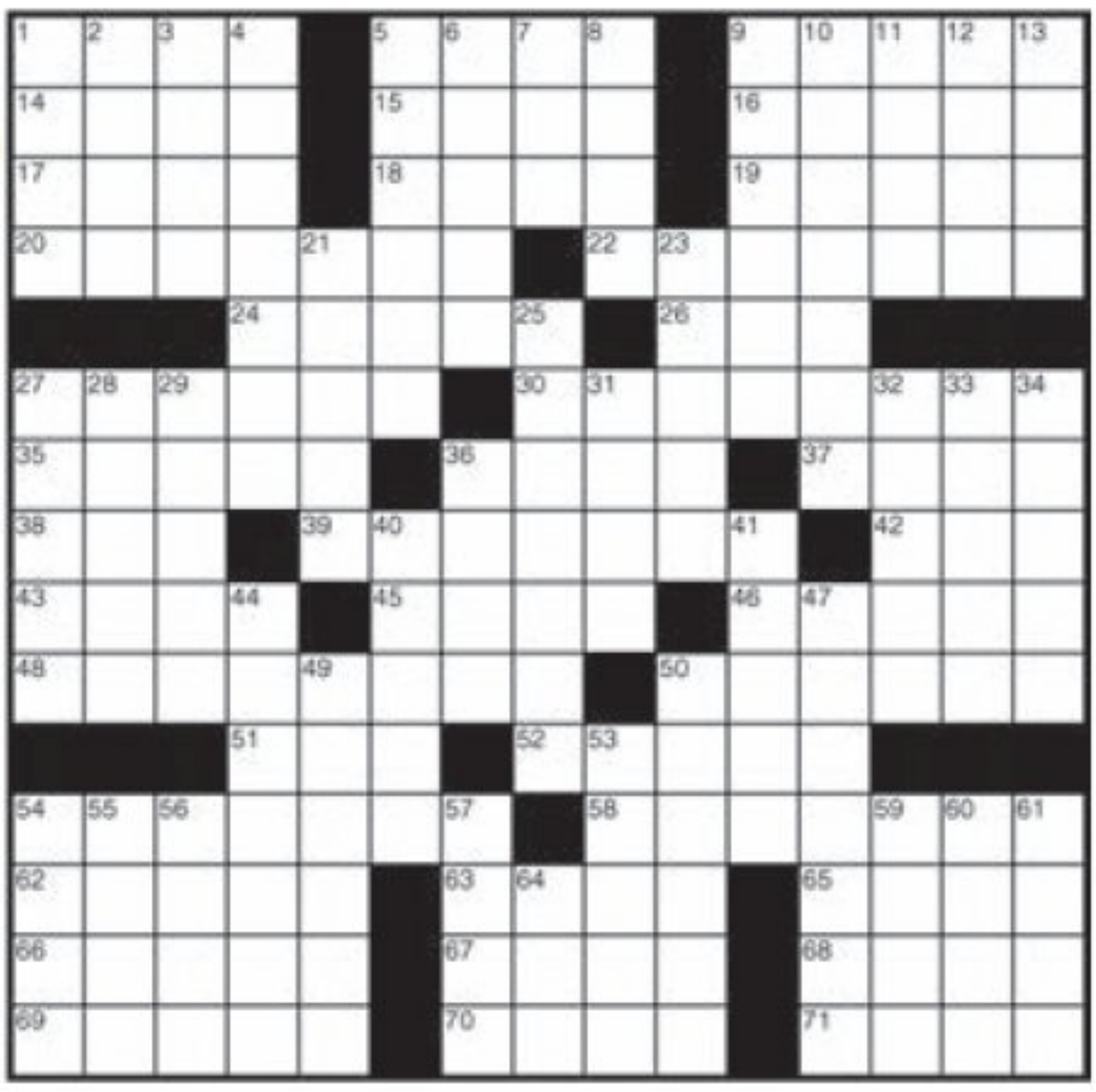
Use your smartphone to find today's crossword answers! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle.

Crossword

Across
1 Frog step
5 Flashlight output
9 Brown pigment
14 Problem with hives
15 "— — Old Cowhand"
16 Merrily
17 Roman legion
18 Floor model
19 Comics orphan
20 Traps a trout (2 wds.)
22 Year-end rewards
24 Hunt or Ronstadt
26 Oklahoma town
27 Mole's job
30 Managed (2 wds.)
35 Best-seller, usually
36 Feeling
37 German industrial region
38 Belly dance lute
39 Most bleached out
42 Luxury resort
43 Sappho's verse
45 "By Jove!" (2 wds.)
46 Censor
48 Did not go over (2 wds.)
50 Hair foam
51 Slippery customer
52 Ogling
54 Soothe
58 Kitchen herb
62 Matches
63 Light greenish-blue
65 Culture dish goo
66 Long-plumed heron
67 Tolled
68 Percussion instrument
69 Nobles
70 Flyleaf
71 Teamwork obstacles

Down
1 Fibber, plus
2 Raison d'—
3 Crowning point
4 Ms. Diller
5 On horseback
6 Improve upon
7 Candied goody
8 Arrogant person
9 Kampala's nation
10 How-to books
11 Flour holders
12 Journalist — Ducommun
13 Deli loaves
21 Tendon
23 Joyce Carol—
25 Stir
27 Lampoon
28 Goody-goody
29 Call from the Alps
31 Follow orders
32 Camel halts
33 Scruffs
34 Jelly fruit
36 Travel document
40 Sledding places
41 Carnivore's delight (hyph.)
44 Rained ice
47 Traveler's need
49 Luaus
50 Optical illusion
53 Teenaged
54 "Green Mansions" hero
55 Kelly's possum
56 Cat's murmur
57 Dodge City marshal
59 Psyched up
60 Prefix for "second"
61 Assns.
64 Sine — non

Yesterday's answer



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What's the deal with Mariota?

NFL. Is Chip Kelly's infatuation with the Oregon QB a good or bad thing?

It's no secret that Chip Kelly fantasizes about reuniting with his former Oregon signal caller Marcus Mariota.

But the Heisman Trophy winner will certainly not be on the board when Kelly's Eagles take the clock with the No. 20 pick in the 2015 NFL draft this April. Several news outlets, including NFL.com and NJ.com, have reported that the Birds will do "whatever it takes" to move up enough to get Mariota. Some sources even claim the Eagles would be willing to make multiple moves to get the quarterback.

Kelly isn't the only one hoping for the reunion. In a recent interview, Mariota expressed a similar desire.

"Obviously my relationship with Coach Kelly — it'd be a lot of fun to be a part of that offense and be a part of that team," Mariota said.

So it's mutual. So what?

The Eagles have Nick Foles, just one year removed from setting an NFL record for touchdown to interception ratio, among other things. Had Foles remained healthy throughout the season (he broke his collarbone in Week 9 in Houston), an argument could be made that the Birds may have made the playoffs.

It's a fact that LeSean McCoy is adamant about.

"I like Nick," the Pro Bowl running back told NFL All Access. "The person and player that everybody thought he was, he is. There were a lot of injuries this year. Nick obviously got injured. He gets all of the blame and he shouldn't. I think Nick's a good quarterback."

By the numbers

36

The Eagles led all NFL teams in giveaways in 2014 — 21 of which were interceptions.

Quarterback play is not necessarily the reason the Eagles failed in 2014 either. While the Eagles did rank 21st out of 32 teams in QB rating (84.8), they ranked third in points scored through the air and sixth in total passing yards during the regular season. They even set a team record for completion percentage.

It was more the Eagles' defense, particularly their secondary, that cost them big time — falling from 9-3 to 10-6 in the season's final four weeks.

Is Mariota the mobile quarterback the Eagles need? / GETTY IMAGES

The Eagles defensive backfield surrendered the second-most yards on defense in the NFL while allowing 18 plays of 40 or more yards, tops in the league by three.

Will Mariota really solve the Eagles' woes? One thing is certain: Even if Mariota performs as expected, or better, his cost of acquisition will hurt the Birds' ability to draft on defense. It's a key Kelly and the Eagles' front office must consider before they gamble their future on a 21-year-old kid from Hawaii.

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3 SPORTS

Worst of the worst

Sixers host Knicks

The eight-win Sixers (8-33) will be the favorites at home against the Knicks on Wednesday night (7 p.m. on CSN) and can start their second half on the right foot with a win over the lowly Knicks. New York just snapped a franchise-worst 16-game losing streak to climb to 6-36.

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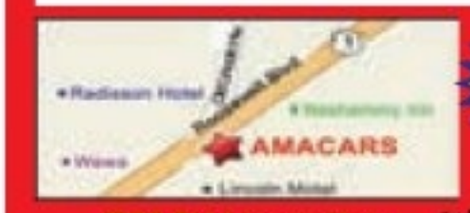

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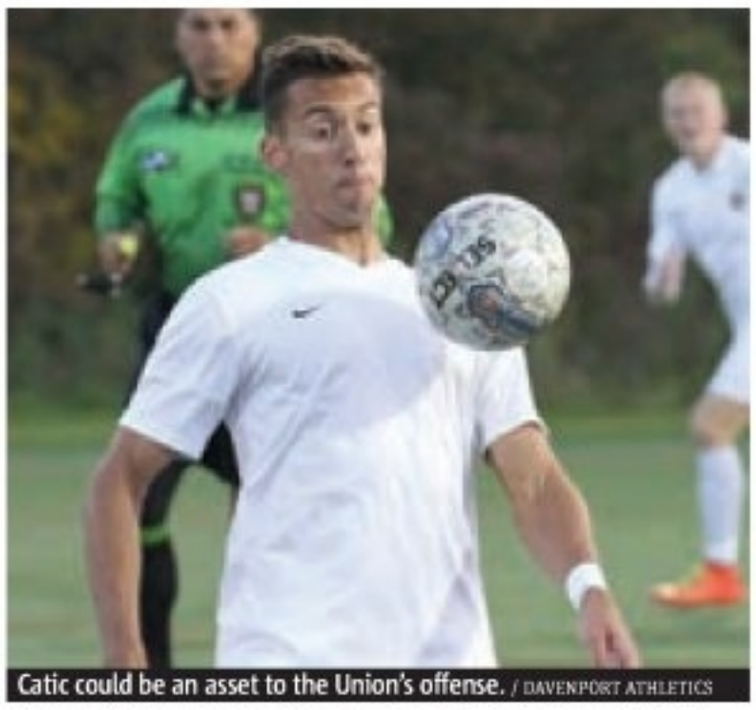
Catic's soccer trek takes him to Philly

MLS. The Union used their top SuperDraft pick on Dzenan Catic, a European immigrant with a great story.


Catic could be an asset to the Union's offense. / DAVENPORT ATHLETICS

A video montage always opens the MLS SuperDraft, displaying the many paths in which players take to get to the league. There's visuals of kids playing on desert plains, kids dribbling in back alleys and kids shooting between trash cans on the concrete surfaces of inner cities.

Every player has his journey, but for the Union's first selection of the day at pick No. 31, forward Dzenan Catic, his journey was quite a bit different from that of his peers.

Catic, born in Bosnia, became emotional when he heard his name called by Philly.

"I'm overwhelmed," Catic said. "I'm so happy to get picked by the Union and I can't wait to get started. It's all just tears of joy right now and I'm excited."

Catic's parents moved to the United States from Bosnia when he and his sister were just eight years old. He starred in high school at East Kentwood High School in Michigan, where he was a three-time state champion and was named national player of the year in 2010.

"I'm just grateful for my parents," Catic said. "They had the courage to bring my sister and myself to the United States for a better life."

Catic decided to test his luck overseas at German club Kaiserslautern rather than enter college. Difficulties in Germany led him back to the U.S., but since he played pro he was deemed ineligible to play at the NCAA level. The NAIA, however, allowed him three years of eligibility, which led him to Division III Davenport University.

"When I found out I wasn't NCAA eligible, I looked at Davenport because my friends played there already, and it's close to home," Catic said. "I had a conversation with coach [Chris] Hughes and he showed a lot of interest in me and wanted me to come play there. It was an easy decision."

Catic scored 63 goals and 14 assists in 47 games at Davenport. He led them to the NAIA national championship in 2014 and was named player of the year.

"He's battle-tested," said Union coach Jim Curtin. "He's been in Europe before. This isn't his first rodeo. To score that amount of goals, I don't care what level it is, it's good. I was talking with a lot of my former teammates that are now MLS coaches, and they're all very high on him."

In terms of the legacy he wants to leave in Philadelphia, Catic is excited for the opportunity. With newly acquired forward C.J. Sapong up top, the Union suddenly have the makings of a dynamic offensive attack next season.

"I'm going to work my butt off," Catic said.

Quoted

"Hopefully I can play soon and show the city of Philadelphia that I want to win and we can bring a championship to the city."
Dzenan Catic

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NBA power rankings | by James Toscano

No. 1

Hawks (24-8)

How are teams describing the Atlanta Hawks right now? As a well-oiled machine. Not many squeaks over the last 13 games — all wins. Six straight home games on the way.

No. 2

Warriors (23-6)

In their latest win over the Nuggets, all 13 players who entered the game finished with at least a plus-10 in the +/- category. That's a deep bench.

No. 3

Blazers (31-11)

Xrays on LaMarcus Aldridge's injured thumb came back negative. If Aldridge misses lots of time, the Blazers are in trouble.

No. 4

Mavericks (29-13)

Statement win for the Mavs in Memphis means there's no denying they're among the best in the league.

No. 5

Grizzlies (29-12)

Jeff Green is averaging 14.8 points and 5.3 rebounds for the Grizzlies through four games (Griz are 3-1). His percentages are pretty rough, though.

No. 6

Rockets (29-13)

James Harden is the best scorer in the NBA this season (27.1 per game), fresh off a 45-point performance against the Pacers.

No. 7

Wizards (29-13)

You have to like what you've seen out of the Wizards. Two wins over the Bulls have them No. 2 in the Eastern Conference.

No. 8

Clippers (28-14)

Give credit to Blake Griffin, who is so much more than the high-flyer he was upon entering the league. Dude can shoot now — look out.

No. 9

Spurs (26-16)

In the two games back since Kawhi Leonard returned, the Spurs beat the Blazers, and then held the Jazz to just 69 points.

No. 10

Raptors (27-14)

DeMar DeRozan is back after missing 21 games. He's scored over 20 points in his first three back before posting a zero Monday.

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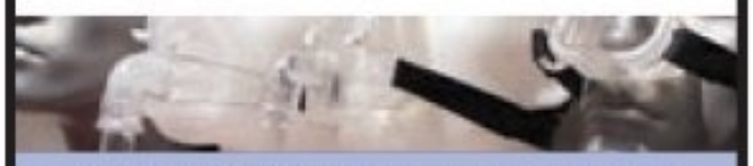
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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REMEDIATE
Pursuant to the Land Recycling and Environmental Remediation Standards Act, the act of May 19, 1995, P.L. 4, No. 1995-2., notice is hereby given that Mykhaylo Kulynych has submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) a Notice of Intent to Remediate a site located at 6618 North 3rd Street, Philadelphia, PA. This Notice of Intent to Remediate states that the heating oil spill caused concentrations of naphthalene and trimethylbenzenes in soil above the DEP Statewide Health Standards. Mykhaylo Kulynych has proposed remediation measures to attain Statewide Health Standards in soil. The proposed future use of the property will be residential.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR WI-FI NETWORKING EQUIPMENT, CABLING, AND SUPPORT SERVICES
Notice is hereby given that the DELAWARE VALLEY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL has released Request for Proposals (RFP's) for various WI-FI networking equipment, cabling services and support services. Details are provided within the formal posted RFP's, however the school will accept proposals that include compatible equipment/solutions. Interested respondents must have an E-rate SPIN number and adhere to the RFP response instructions. Complete responses must be received on or before 10AM E.S.T. on February 3, 2015 addressed to the contact person that is given on the first page of the RFP's. To obtain a copy of the RFPs visit www.inteiafunds.net and go to "Bid Opportunities". Questions regarding this request can be sent to eratesupport2015@inteiafunds.net

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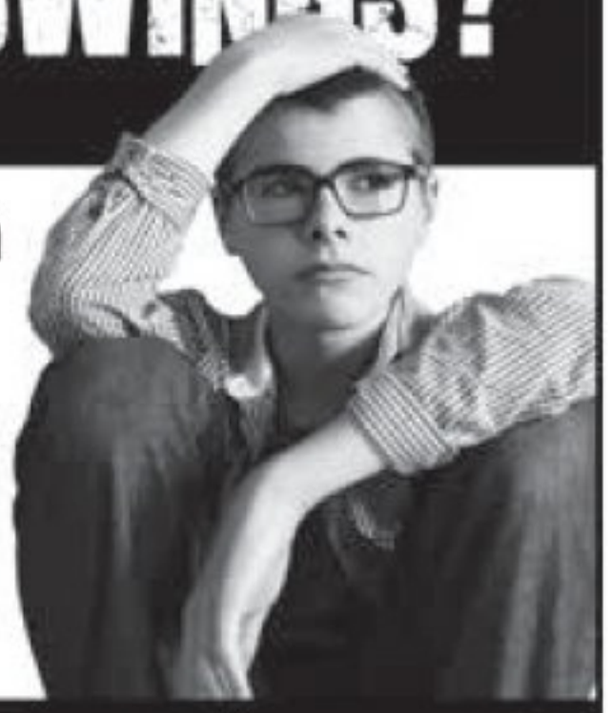

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